

Mercer Slough Basin

Basin Areas: 1,375 Total Acres

City 1,375 Acres

Drainage Jurisdictions: Bellevue, DOT (I-405, I-90)

% Impervious 35%

Basin Relief 14 ft

Basin Energy 0.1

Basin Length 2.2 mi

Average Basin Width 1.0 mi

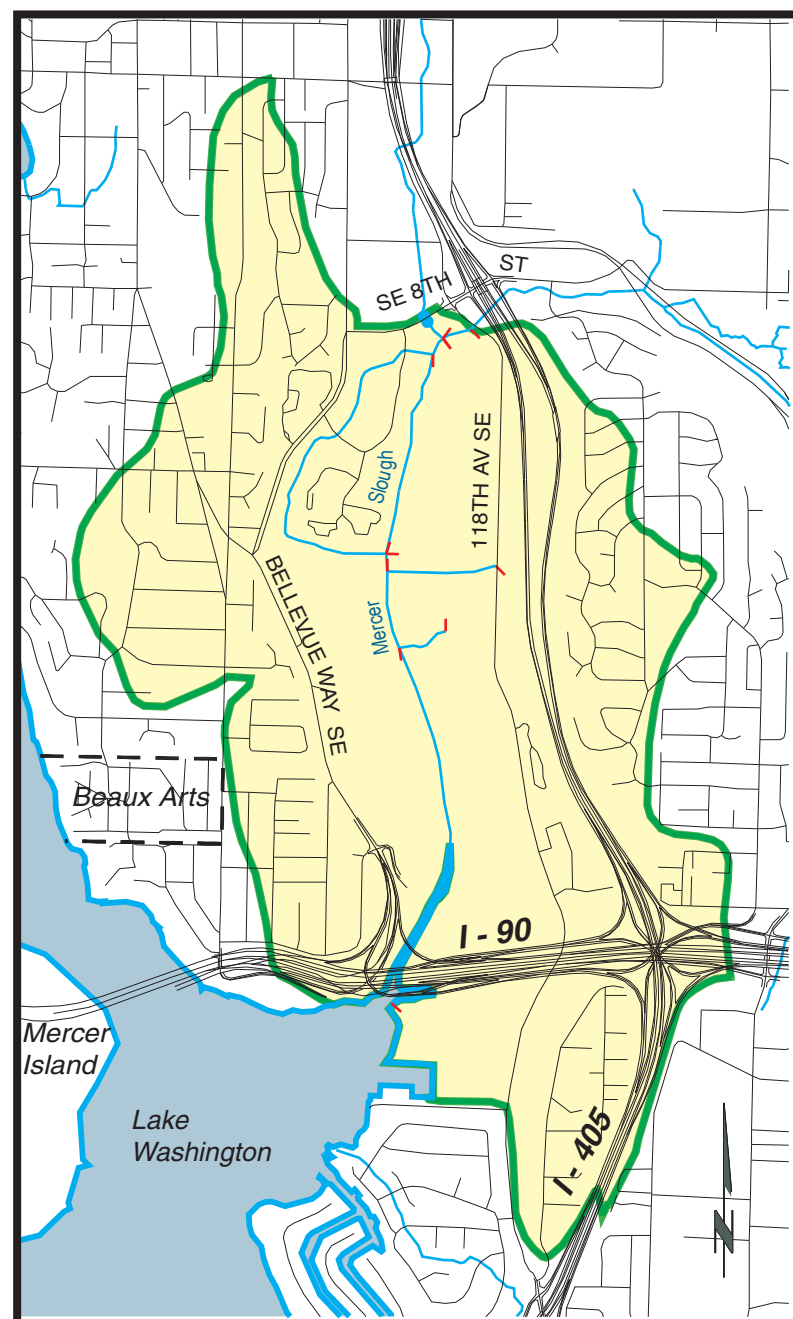
Total Length of Open Channel 15,937 ft

Lake Washington Watershed

City Basin Population (2000): 4,674

Land Use Within the City Area

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Single family residential | 31% |
| Multi-family residential | 6% |
| Commercial/Office | 1% |
| Industrial | 2% |
| Institutional/Government | 2% |
| Open Space/Park | 24% |
| Mixed use/Misc. | 0% |
| Public streets | 34% |



SCALE 1" = 2400'

Fish Use: Prior to 1916 when the Montlake cut was completed, the elevation of Lake Washington was at least nine feet higher than present; it may have risen an additional three to four feet higher in winter. Mercer Slough was navigable by shallow draft steamboats and ferries for much of the year up to where I-405 now crosses. The wetland area associated with Mercer Slough extended well south of the mouth of Coal Creek, and north in Bellevue as far as present Main Street (McDonald 1984). King County constructed a dock in the 1890s, at the north end of the slough. A logging camp and a sawmill were established there. Log rafts were assembled in the slough for towing across Lake Washington and lumber shipments were made until the area became isolated by the lowered lake level (McConaghy, undated; McDonald 1984; Harvey 1992).

Currently, Mercer Slough serves mainly as a migration corridor for adult fish heading upstream to spawn in Kelsey Creek and its tributaries and for juvenile fish migrating downstream (Williams et al. 1975). In season, migrating chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon pass through the slough, as do migratory cutthroat trout and steelhead. The slough also provides rearing habitat especially for juvenile coho, and at other times, juveniles of other species. There is no suitable spawning habitat in Mercer Slough, and there was likely none historically.